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CONCEPT PAPER: NIO FOR WARNING'S MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

1. The NIO/W's duties will center on providing a focal point for advising and assisting the DCI and the DDCI in discharging their responsibilities with respect to warning intelligence. His primary mission will be to coordinate the warning activities of the Intelligence Community, but he will on occasion take the initiative in warning actions, in collaboration with the responsible regional NIOs and senior officials of NFIB agencies.
2. The NIO/W will continue to be responsible for the functions outlined in DCID 1/5, but he will devote greater attention than in the past to supporting the warning functions of the Chairman of the National Intelligence Council and the regional NIOs. He will play a central role in integrating the responsibility of the DCI Watch Committee for short-term warning and the NIOs' responsibilities for mid- to long-term warning. The NIO/W and the National Warning Staff will contribute to and participate directly in both the Watch Committee and the NIOs' monthly assessments.
3. The NIO/W and the NWS will devote particular attention to providing a safeguard second look at current developments of potential warning significance. They will provide a balance to current intelligence production by performing the challenge function, primarily by developing alternative interpretations of information and events that address the potential for surprise, especially in matters of greatest consequence for US security interests. The NIO/W and his staff will promote sensitivity to the "lessons" of previous warning episodes, in particular, the crucial importance of making explicit the analytical assumptions that underlie prevailing evaluations and estimates.

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